

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-01 TRSE-00 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13
/077 W

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R 011218Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7209
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 02124

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM IR
SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI): WROBEL TESTIMONY

REF A. 77 TEHRAN 9970, B. TEHRAN 1799, C. TEHRAN 2040,
D. TEHRAN A-37, E. 77 TABRIZ 1879

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED WIRELESS FILE COVERAGE OF WROBEL TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER COMMITTEE (NESA-25 ON FEB 28 WIRELESS FILE). EMBASSY WOULD NOT WANT TO COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF REPORT WITHOUT SEEING COMPLETE TEXT, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS BEING AIRSHIPPED TO PAO, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO FLAG TWO ITEMS FOR DEPT IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING TESTIMONY (OF WHICH WE UNAWARE UNTIL REPORT ON WROBEL).

2. EMBASSY HAS OUTLINED ITS PROBLEMS WITH AI RECENTLY (REF B THRU D) REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF EVIDENCE AND QUESTION OF AI NEGATIVISM. WE WOULD ADDITIONALLY NOTE THAT, TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO TRAILS UNDER NEW MILITARY LAW, AND THEREFORE IT IS PERHAPS PREMATURE (AS SUGGESTED IN REF A) TO ASSUME THAT GOI WILL ADOPT NEGATIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF LAW SUGGESTED BY AI. ENCOURAGING GOI TO TAKE MORE LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF LAW STILL SEEMS BETTER WAY TO GET POSITIVE RESULTS.

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3. MORE IMPORTANT, ONE MAJOR ADVANCE IN JUDICIAL RIGHTS WHICH AI ITSELF HAS ARGUED FOR HAS TAKEN PLACE, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY ESCAPING MR. WROBEL'S NOTICE: ALL THOSE ARRESTED IN RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS SINCE MID-NOVEMBER 1977 HAVE BEEN TRIED IN CIVILIAN, NOT MILITARY, COURTS WITH ATTENDANT CIVILIAN SAFEGUARDS. WHILE IT HAS NEVER

BEEN EXPLICITLY STATED AS GOI POLICY, DE FACTO GOI
PRACTICE (THUS FAR WITHOUT EXCEPTION) HAS BEEN TO TRY
ALL EXCEPT CAPTURED ARMED TERRORISTS IN CIVILIAN COURTS.
WE BELIEVE THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD BE NOTED AND
FURTHER ENCOURAGED, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE
HOLDING TRUE OF TABRIZ RIOTERS AS WELL (REF E).

4. WOULD APPRECIATE MORE INFORMATION ON NATURE AND
SCOPE OF HEARINGS ON IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS NOW IN PROGRESS.
MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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